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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/706,003	11/12/2003	Ronnie M. Harrison	102-0069US-1	8919
29855	7590	05/06/2004	EXAMINER	
WONG, CABELLO, LUTSCH, RUTHERFORD & BRUCCULERI, P.C. 20333 SH 249 SUITE 600 HOUSTON, TX 77070			MAI, SON LUU	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2818	
DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/706,003	HARRISON, RONNIE M.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Son L. Mai	2818	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 November 2003.

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 52-81 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 52-81 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11-12-03.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The preliminary amendment filed 11-12-03 has been entered. Accordingly, claims 52-81 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 72-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 72 recites the limitation "the clock signal" in line 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claims 73-79 are rejected for depending upon claim 72 and incorporating the limitation thereon.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 52, 55, 58, 72, 73, 80 and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tomita (U.S. Patent 5,939,913).

Regarding claim 52, Tomita discloses a method of synchronizing a clock signal (CLK in figure 8) using a delay lock loop (figure 8 and related text), comprising: frequency dividing the clock signal to provide a divided signal (signal S2); coupling the divided signal to an input of a variable delay circuit (circuit 102), the variable delay circuit outputting a delayed signal (signal S28); comparing (using circuit 105) the divided signal to a phase of the delayed signal to generate a control signal (signal S32); and applying the control signal to the variable delay circuit to control its delay (column 10, last paragraph).

Regarding claim 55, Tomita further teaches the variable delay circuit includes a propagation delay (circuits 103 and 104 constitute a propagation delay.)

Regarding claim 58, Tomita also teaches comparing the divided signal (S35) to a phase of the delayed signal (S28) to generate a control signal (S32) involves assessing the phase difference between the divided signal and the delayed signal (column 10, last paragraph).

Regarding claims 72, 73, 80 and 81, these claims recite similar limitations as in claims 52 and 55; therefore they are rejected for the same reasons.

Double Patenting

6. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA

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1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

7. Claims 52-81 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 4-13, 15-29, 32-34 of U.S. Patent No. 6,680,874. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the instant claims are broader than the claims in the Patent '874. Clearly, the Applicant is attempting to obtain broader coverage in the claim of the application. For example, in claim 52, the limitation "after a duration, replacing the divided signal at the input of the variable delay circuit with the clock signal" of the Patent's claim 1, was removed. In claim 63, the limitation "undividing the frequency-divided clock signal" of the Patent's claim 15, was removed. In claim 72, the limitations "a clock signal" (line 2) and "a frequency divided version..." (lines 6-7) of the Patent's claim 24, were removed. However, it is well settled that the omission of elements and its function is an obvious expedient if the remaining elements perform the same function as before. *In re Karlson*, 136 USPQ 184 (CCPA 1963). Also note *Ex parte Rainu*, 168 USPQ 375 (Bd App. 1969).

Conclusion


8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fujii (U.S. Patent 5,973,525), Takemae (U.S. Patent 6,194,932), Hashimoto (U.S. Patent 6,351,166) and Matsuzaki (U.S. Patent 6,476,653) teach delay lock loop circuits for synchronizing operations of memory devices.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son L. Mai whose telephone number is 571-272-1786. The examiner can normally be reached on 8am to 6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Nelms can be reached on 571-272-1787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

05-01-04


Son L. Mai
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2818